



WILLIAM DENNIS, MAYOR OF SENECA, KANSAS.

Mrs. Joe Smith
2032 Washburn Avenue
Topeka, Kansas

From Biographies of Kansas-Pub. Standard Publishing Co. 1912 Page 1447

Joseph W. Dennis - Born 4-9-1825. Came to Seneca in 1856. Born Henry Co. Ky. Son of Batson & Mary Ann Callender Dennis, the former born and reared to farm life in Henry Co. Ky., and the latter born near Richmond, Va. and when a young woman came to Ky. where she married Batson Dennis. When Joseph W. was five (5) his parents moved to Johnson Co. Indiana and resided there about 8 years when they took up their residence on a farm ten miles southeast of Bloomington, Ill. (McLean Co.). They remained there until 1856, in which year they came to Kansas, locating on a squatter's claim one mile south of Seneca. To Batson and Mary Ann Dennis were born the following children: Samuel who died near Seneca; Sally who died in Ky.; Joseph W.; John H. who died on the old homestead near Seneca; Jesse, who was killed by desperadoes in Nemaha Co. before the Civil War, his murderer having been captured and hanged in Seneca, the first execution in that town, and Batson Jr., who died in Perry, Oklahoma. (Old house built in 1860 close to cabin built in 1856- south of Seneca, where the family burial ground is)

Note: Also born to Batson & Mary Ann Dennis, not mentioned in the article was Nancy Dennis, who married Keenan.

John H. Dennis died 1898.
Joseph W. Dennis died 11-11-1913

From Courier-Democrat 10-16-1913

As early as 1855-56-57 there were the following settlers to Nemaha Co.-

Joseph W. Dennis on the east side of Nemaha River and his father Batson, Sr. on the west. Jesse Dennis on the west.

BATSON DENNIS
Born Ky. - 1796 - Died 1877
Moved to Johnson Co. IND - 1830
v Bloomington Ill. - 1839
v Kansas - 1856

Opheka, Kansas

From ANDREAS Kansas History: 1893 Pub.

Batson Dennis, deceased, was born in 1796, in Henry Co., Ky. Settled 34 years after in McLean Co., Ill., and came from there to Nemaha Co., Kansas in 1856. With him were his wife and children, Samuel, Joseph W., John H., Jesse S., and Batson Jr., also Nancy, wife of Keenan (J.).

Batson Dennis, Sr., pre-empted gov't. land south of Seneca, and lived there until his death in 1877, his wife having died previously. Jesse S. Dennis was murdered in 1866, by one Bohn, who was hung two years later in Seneca. There are now only three representatives of this pioneer family left in Nemaha Co., Kansas. These are Joseph W., Batson Jr., and John H., all substantial farmers.

Batson Dennis, Sr. met his death in consequence of injuries sustained while trying to mount a horse.

Joseph W. Dennis, farmer, P.O. Seneca, is a son of Batson Dennis, Sr., and settled with his father and four brothers, in Nemaha Co., in June, 1856. He was born in 1825 in Henry Co. Ky., and married in 1847 in DeWitt Co. Ill., Mary A. Young. Mr. Dennis bought 160 acres of his present farm of Wm. Berry for \$75.00 and has added 480 acres, owning 240 acres besides in Harrison Township. Mr. & Mrs. Dennis lived four years in a log cabin seeing their full share of the shadows that ever beset the pioneer's pathway. They are members of the Harmony Baptist Church, and have four children living: Amanda, Campbell W., Ellen, and J. Phillip; having lost six children.

First term of District Court held in Nemaha Co. Nov. 11, 1861. On Grand Jury - Samuel Dennis.

Old Settler's Society formed court house, Seneca, Aug. 14, 1880. 127 Old Settlers present. John H. Dennis, Harrison representative Oct. 6, 1881 at second meeting. Seventy five (75) present.

o Dennis Spring Farm o

WM. DENNIS, Proprietor

DEALER IN

Thoroughbred Horses

Seneca, Kansas,

130

C. C. K. SCOVILLE, PRESIDENT
F. J. HOLTHAUS, CASHIER

AUGUST KRAMER, VICE PRES
A. J. WEMPE, ASST. CASHIER



The Citizens State Bank

CAPITAL, SURPLUS & PROFITS \$160,000.00

SENECA, KANSAS

August 16th 1917.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

It gives me very great pleasure indeed to hand this letter to Mr. William Dennis, Mayor of our City, for the purpose of assisting him in any way while he may be on his travels through the country with his fast horses, which have been prepared for the races this fall.

I take great pleasure in saying that all banks, fair officials and individuals will find in Mr. Dennis a man who is at all times a perfect gentleman and absolutely responsible and reliable, financially and morally. His word is as good as a bond, and I shall appreciate any courtesy shown him by any or all persons with whom he comes in contact.

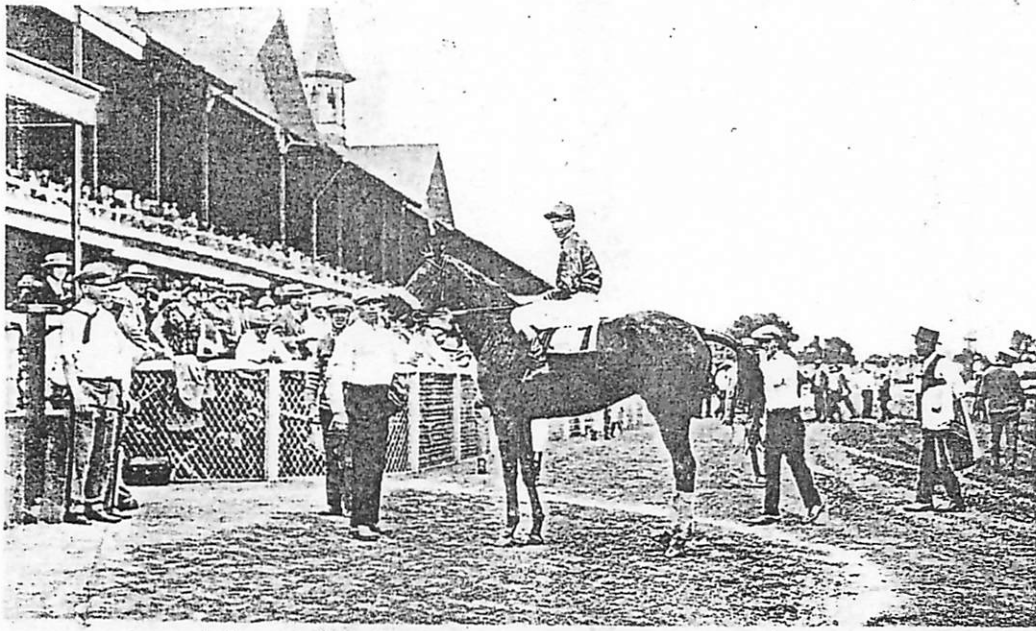
Very respectfully

1000

o Dennis Spring Farm o

WM. DENNIS, Proprietor

DEALER IN



130



WAS STORMY DAY - SALE CALLED OFF.

NOTICE OF SALE.

Commencing at one o'clock sharp on the 20th day of November, 1913, I will offer for sale, and sell to the highest bidder—after the sale of my other stock is complete—the following strictly thoroughbred horses, viz:

Ky - LADY EUNICE, black mare foaled in 1899, by IMP' YORKSHIRE LAD, out of IMP' PERFUME, both stake winners in England and America.

Ky - WILLIAM LESLIE, brown gelding, foaled in 1897, by Miller out of Trilby, both sire and dam are stakewinners.

UNCONCERNED, brown gelding, foaled in 1910, by Ira K. out of Pearl Rose. ALSO A FULL SISTER, UNNAMED, foaled in 1911.

SANTA FE, chestnut gelding, foaled in 1911, by Ira K. out of Ollie Fay.

BULL OF THE WOODS, chestnut gelding, foaled in 1910, weighs 1280 lbs. by Belvedere, a stake winner, out of Pearl Rose.

I have concluded to quit the racing business for the present and the above horses will be sold without reserve. Full pedigrees furnished applicants, on application. A credit of eight months time will be given on these horses with approved security and interest at eight per cent.

WILLIAM DENNIS. Seneca. Kansas.



No. _____

Not Transferable.

\$ _____

THE DENNIS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

-000-

OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE

-----0-----

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That the DENNIS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Kansas, of the County of Nemaha and State of Kansas, for and in consideration of the sum of Three & No/100
 ----- DOLLARS, does SELL, CONVEY AND ALIENATE to W. M. Dennis, and his heirs forever, the South Twenty (20) feet, of Lot number thirty-eight (38), (size 10 x 20 feet)
 Also, Lot number thirty-three (33), (size 11 x 28 feet)
 Also, a tract 11 x 12 feet adjoining Lot number 33 on the north, and described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of said Lot number 33; running thence north 12 feet; thence west 11 feet; thence south 12 feet; thence east 11 feet to the place of beginning, in the Dennis Cemetery, situate in the County of Nemaha State of Kansas, in the SE 1/4 of Section 3, Tp. 12, Range 12, according to the survey and plat of said Cemetery, filed and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of said County on the 18th day of July, 1906, subject to the rules and regulations of said Cemetery,



Ladies L. to R.:

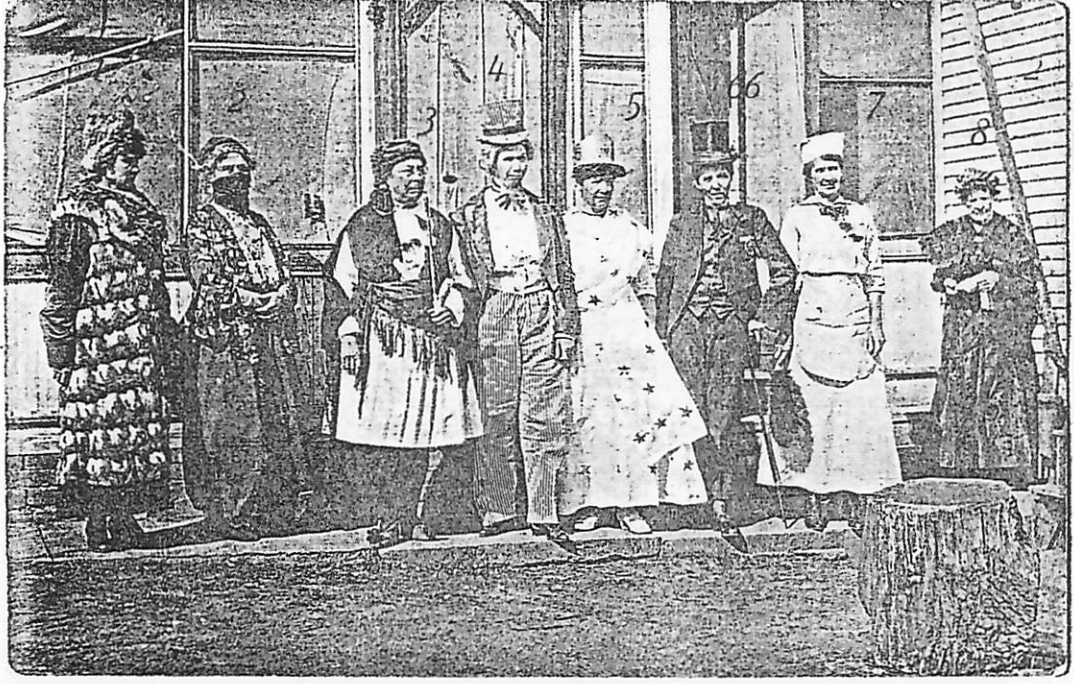
- Mrs. Fitzwater
- Mrs. Wm. Dennis
- Mary Emery

(Dennis Campaign) = William Dennis - Judge Rufus Emery



Parties
at
The
Dennis.
home

- 1 Mae Stevens
- 2 Fitzwater
- 3
- 4 Olive Dennis
- 5
- 6



- 1
- 2
- 3 Mary Emery
- 4
- 5
- 6 Olive Dennis
- 7
- 8 Nancy Dennis

Oldest of the Old Settlers



The two portraits shown here have great historical value. They are the earliest of the pioneers who settled in Nemaha county.

Top row, left to right: J. E. Taylor, John Sly, Mrs. John Sly, Mrs. Tuller, E. J. Emery, Mrs. E. J. Emery.

Second row: Mrs. J. E. Taylor, J. H. Peckham, Mrs. J. H. Peckham, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Thos. Bronaugh, Thos. Bronaugh.



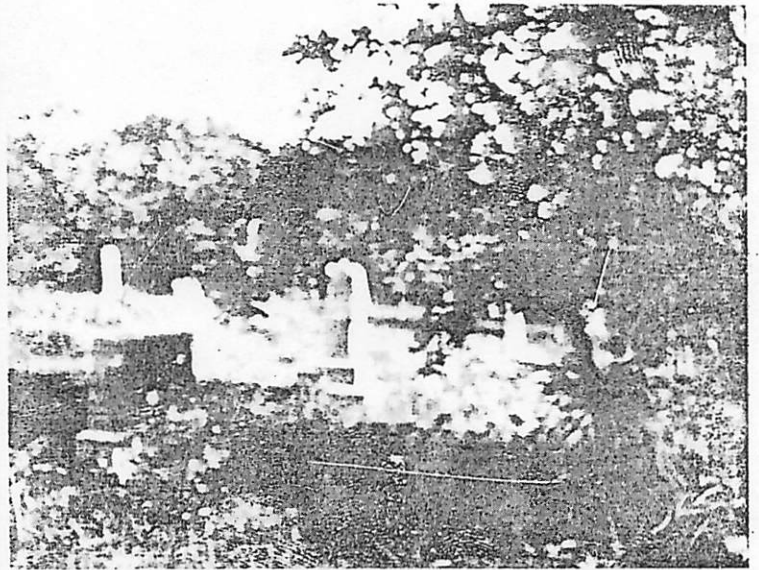
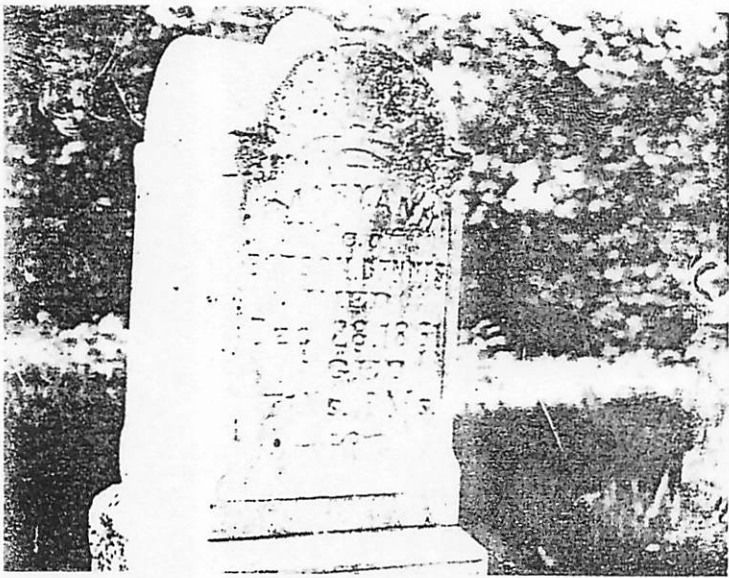
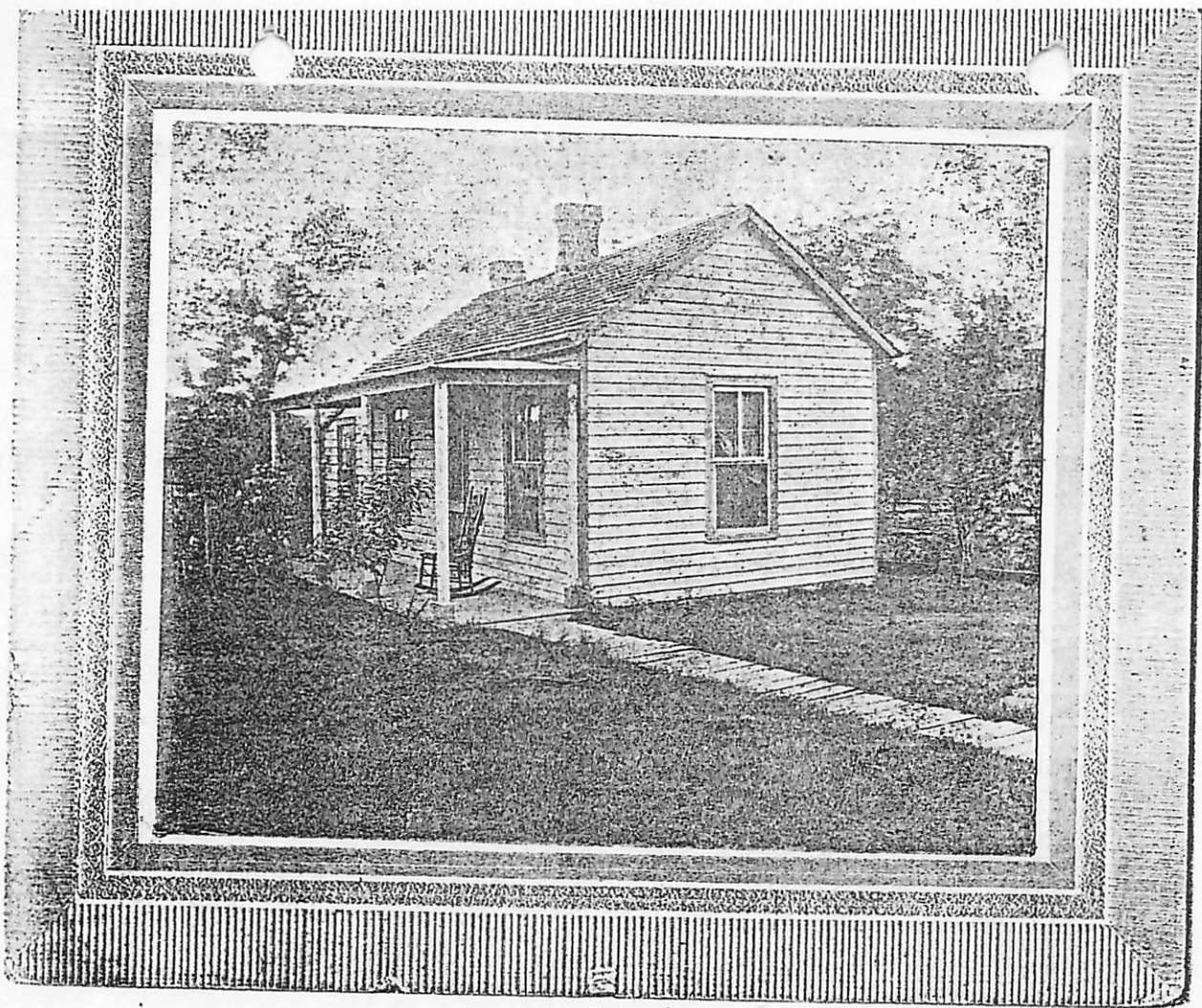
Top row, left to right: Joseph W. Dennis, Mrs. Joseph W. Dennis, Mrs. John Dennis, John Dennis, Mrs. Margaret Hawley.

Second row: E. N. Hanks, Mrs. E. N. Hanks, Hiram Burger, Mrs. Hiram Burger, John M. Ford, Mrs. John M. Ford.

Third row: Daniel Neil, E. D. Neil, ...

*Parade at Fairgrounds - Seneca, Kansas
Center team - William Dennis*





Dennis

Cemetery

1856



Mengwasser, Augustine Baker, Matthias Stein, Stanislaus Altman, Benno Feser, Denis Murphy, Winifred Schmidt and Charles Stoockle."

The cornerstone of the second church was laid April 23, 1886, and formally dedicated on May 22, 1887. Rt. Rev. Innocent Wolf, D. D., Abbot of St. Benedict's College, celebrated Pontifical mass. Rev. J. Pichler of Hanover gave the sermon. A Bohemian sermon was given in the afternoon by Father Gaydedechek.

The church was almost completely destroyed in the tornado of 1896. The steeple and a number of beautiful windows were demolished, a total loss of \$20,000. A school building that had been started was delayed in building. It became the duty of the pastor, Boniface, to rebuild the church and it was enlarged to its present size. Church property includes the Auditorium, built during the administration of Father Lawrence, the parish house and the parish school.

Pastors who have served in recent years include Rev. Father Lawrence, Thomas, Gabriel, Cyril, Joseph, Hilary, Edgar, Raymond and the present pastors, Damian and Claude.

Seneca Free Library

The Seneca Free Library was organized in May, 1917, during the administration of Mayor Wm. Dennis. Charles H. Herold was the first president. Mrs. E. M. Collins, the first secretary.

In 1923, Mrs. Collins resigned and Mrs. Walter Fuller was elected secretary. Mrs. E. M. Collins gave volumes from her own library as the foundation. In 1923, the Seneca Woman's club, assisted by Mrs. Collins' former primary pupils, presented a cash memorial. The interest, then amounting to \$12.00 per year, was invested in Nemaha Building & Loan shares; the income to be used in purchasing books of Mrs. Collins selection. Miss Ruth Collins was the first librarian. She was succeeded by Mrs. R. E. Karnes and the present librarian, Mrs. Edwin Buehler.

The Old Stone Church was purchased through a city election in April of 1928 at the request of R. D. McCliman, Ira K. Wells and other influential Universalists and the Seneca Womens' Club.

The library was moved from its



Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Firstenberger



Lieut. Gov. Andrew J. Felt



Sheriff and Mayor Wm. Dennis



Judge W. H. Higgins



C. G. DENNIS
LAWYER
SUBLETTE, KANSAS

May 22nd, 1953

Mrs. Joe Smith,
Route No. 2,
Silver Lake, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Enclosed find Genealogical and Historical Sketch of the name and family of Dennis.

My records show that Batson Dennis ^{my great grand father} was born July 11th, 1796 and that his father was also named Batson Dennis and he was born in Virginia in 1760 . I understand that the State of Kentucky was carved off of the State of Virginia.

I might add that the elder Batson Dennis who was born in 1760 was a Surveyer.

This is all the information I have and I trust it may help you some.

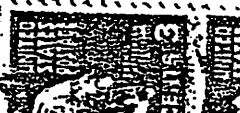
Yours very truly,

Clarence G. Dennis — { Son of Campbell Dennis
Clarence G. Dennis } Son of Joseph ✓

C. G. DENNIS
LAWYER
SUBLETTE, KANSAS



30



END COMES TO WM. DENNIS

A DOMINANT FIGURE

Untutored of Schools, Pioneer Lad
Rose to High Places in Con-
fidence of County

"Bill" Dennis is dead. When that news was received down town early Friday morning, Seneca sighed and closed another chapter in the annals of Nemaha county history.

The headline calls him Wm. Dennis but everybody called him "Bill". The name fit his rugged nature and his once stalwart frame. He had been a native of Nemaha county since 1856 and at his death was one of the county's oldest citizens in point of residence.

Viewed from many angles "Bill" Dennis was one of the county's outstanding citizens. There were so many sides to his nature that one could hardly hope to know them all. He began with almost nothing in the way of education and he never reached a point where he could be called a book-educated man but he knew more about the book of life than any cloistered college professor. He was so great a student of human nature that time and again he dominated political and business situations by the influence of the contacts he had made.

It has been hard going for him of late years. Always he had been a lover of good horse flesh. He was especially fond of running horses. He followed the race circuits long after he was physically unfit.

Ten years or so ago a form of paralysis developed in one of his legs. This did not keep him from his interest in racing, however. Then he had one or more automobile accidents, resulting in added injuries to his affected limb. The legs gave way with him at his home and the consequent falls further disabled him. Death, which came to him at 11:40 Thursday night, was attributed by his physician to the slow form of paralysis which first attacked him so long ago. His wife and his daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Berridge, Bern, were with him at the end.

The name "Dennis" is associated with Seneca and Nemaha county history from the earliest settlements. Seneca was not staked out until 1857 and Will's father and grandfather came here in 1856 when Will was two years old. The history of the Dennis family in this state began when Batson Dennis, his grandfather,



John Dennis improved the land which he bought from the government and became an extensive cattle raiser. There was much free range in those days. John Dennis died here in 1898. He was twice married, his first wife being Will's mother. There were four children but Will survived them all. Will's mother, Mrs. Ellen Rich Dennis died in 1856. His step-mother was Mrs. Nancy Thompson Dennis, a native of Indiana, who reached an old age before she passed away at her home here a few years ago.

Will Dennis got little schooling

Former Mayor And Sheriff

Will Dennis Held Numerous Elective Offices.

By many people "Bill" Dennis was regarded as the ablest political campaigner the county has ever known. His interest in local politics was as great, perhaps greater than his passion for racing. He mixed campaigning, racing, farming and other interests with great facility and at times astonishing success.

He was a power to be reckoned with in every campaign. When a Democrat aspired to any county office one of the first things he did was to hold a conference with "Bill" Dennis.

Will's own public career began in 1887 when he was elected trustee of Harrison township. He held the office for three years. In the fall of 1889, he was elected sheriff of Nemaha county and held the office for four years, from Jan. 1, 1890 to Jan. 1, 1894.

He then farmed for a time and was appointed postmaster at Goff and held this office for three years. He was again elected sheriff in 1904 and was re-elected in 1906.

With his home in Seneca, Will could no more abstain from city politics than he could that of the county. He was elected Mayor of

when he was a boy. He attended subscription schools for about three months out of each year, until he was 18. Then he began to "work out" by the month. For a time he was employed on a farm by the late Judge Joshua Mitchell, then he started in the livestock business on his own account. He continued buying and shipping livestock for eight years and then married and began farming on his own account. His first wife was Mary Ford, daughter of Nathan Ford, an early day settler at Old Lincoln. She passed away about 1835. There were two daughters by this marriage, Mrs. Neva Clelland, who passed away at the Dennis home in Kelly in 1903, and Mrs. Myrtle Berridge of Bern. When Mrs. Clelland died she left a son, just two weeks old. Will Dennis took this son, Leslie, into his own home, educated him and lavished a father's own affection upon him. Leslie Clelland is now engaged in business in Chicago.

Mr. Dennis was married in February of 1889 to Miss Olive Downey, who survives him. She made him a well ordered home and noble helpmeet and cared for him with great devotion as infirmities came upon him.

Will's first investment was in 120 acres of land near Kelly. Here he farmed until 1887. At times his land holdings in this county reached considerable proportions. At one period of his busy life he was engaged in the grain business at Kelly.

His interest in horses was an absorbing passion. He bought, bred and sold runners. Perhaps the best horse he ever owned, the most consistent winner, was Calverone. Later he picked up another to which he gave the name "Ira K." This horse was named for Ira K. Wells, now Judge of the U. S. district court for Porto Rico. Mr. Dennis sold Ira K. for \$2500, at that time considered an enormous price for a thoroughbred. Will Dennis was a familiar figure on the tracks all over this section of the middle west. He could never give up his interest in good horses and owned a string to the very last.

The funeral service was held at the home Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, conducted by Rev. C. A. Richard, pastor of the Congregational church, assisted by Rev. T. K. Bosworth, pastor of the Congregational church of Centralia, who baptized and received Mr. Dennis into the membership of the church. Mr. Bosworth read the Scripture lesson and read the obituary. A quartet, Mrs. Lora Vorhes, Miss Nellie M. Young, Dr. J. C. Grindle and C. E. Mathews sang "Under his Wings," and "Abide With Me." Sydney S. Collins presided at the organ.

The active pallbearers were Thomas S. Root, George A.

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The name Dennis is associated with Seneca and Nemaha county history from the earliest settlements. Seneca was not staked out until 1857 and Will's father and grandfather came here in 1856 when Will was two years old. The history of the Dennis family in this state began when Batson Dennis, his grandfather, accompanied by his wife and five sons and a daughter, made the long and arduous trip from Illinois to the Kansas plains by means of ox teams. The father and sons preempted land in this vicinity from the U.S. government at the rate of \$1.25 per acre.

Batson Dennis, says the Nemaha county history, settled on land directly south of Seneca. His five sons, Samuel, Joseph, Jesse, John H. and Batson, Jr. settled on claims on the Nemaha south of Seneca. John H. Dennis, father of Will Dennis, took up a home- stead one mile south of Kelly. Will Dennis always carried with him a vivid remembrance of days when the woods and plains along the stream abounded in wild game.

Joseph Dennis, Will's uncle, had a farm just southeast of Seneca, 140 acres more or less of timberland and bottom ground. A part of this land was taken for what became known as the Dennis cemetery. Almost all the members of the Dennis family are buried here. In recent years this place came into Will's possession and, although fortune wrested it from his ownership, he had nominal control over it to the last. A few years ago Will attended a funeral at this cemetery. He found the road so badly washed away and dangerous for automobiles that he expressly stated that he did not wish to be buried there.

William Dennis was born in Crawford county, Illinois June 9, 1854. His father was a Kentuckian and one of that band of pioneers who were moving into the rich lands of Illinois about the time that Abraham Lincoln's father made the same trek. The Dennis name dates to colonial days for his grandparents were descendants of men and women who early settled America. History shows the men of that day ever pressing on to new adventures in the west.

After the migration of the Dennis family to Kansas in 1856,

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With his home in Seneca, Will could no more abstain from city politics than he could that of the county. He was elected Mayor of Seneca in 1914 and served until 1918. He was head of the city government when the City Hall was built.

The man made the closest friendships with the rank and file of voters. Though he did not waver as a Democrat he drew his support as largely from Republicans as he did from his own party. A Republican ward or township meant not a thing to this student of men. He went quietly about his own individual way of making friends and votes and when the ballots were counted he usually topped the list.

He had a way of smiling, his gratitude for favors that appealed to most men. Recently a party of men took him to the Fair Grounds for a farmers' picnic. Upon this and other occasions he would call the newspaper to express his feeling of appreciation.

never give up his interest in good horses and owned a string to the very last.

The funeral service was held at the home Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, conducted by Rev. C. A. Richard, pastor of the Congregational church, assisted by Rev. T. K. Bosworth, pastor of the Congregational church of Centralia, who baptized and received Mr. Dennis into the membership of the church. Mr. Bosworth read the Scripture lesson and read the obituary. A quartet, Mrs. Lora Vorhes, Miss Nellie M. Young, Dr. J. C. Grindle and C. E. Mathews sang "Under his Wings," and "Abide With Me." Sydney S. Collins presided at the organ.

The active pallbearers were Thomas S. Roots, George A. Shaul, Frank Roots, Bert Campmire, John Kerns and Matt McCaffrey. The honorary pallbearers were Leander Gudenkauf, Ed. Moynagh, A. E. Levick, Judge Higgins, John Gudenkauf and P. J. Lauer. Interment was made in the city cemetery.

"William Dennis first business venture on his own was buying and selling livestock. He bought and shipped for about eight years and then married and began farming on his own account. His first investment was in 120 acres of land near Kelly, Kansas, which he cultivated until 1887. He then filled various official positions for some years, engaged in the grain business at Kelly, Kansas, for a time, and purchased his present home place at Seneca in 1908." (This was the big place at the edge of town.) (He then moved to the big house in Seneca that we remember in 1917.) (Alyce)

"The official career of William Dennis began in 1887, when he was elected trustee of Harrison township, and held the office for three years. In the fall of 1889, he was elected sheriff of Nemaha County, and held the office for four years, from January 1, 1890, to January 1, 1894. He then farmed for a time and was appointed postmaster at Goff, Kansas, and held this office for three years. He was again elected sheriff of the county in 1904, and held the office for the following four years. He was faithful in the discharge of his duties and rendered conscientious and devoted service to the people of the county in every public position which he held. Mr. Dennis was elected Mayor of Seneca in 1914, and is giving the city an excellent administration." *****

First wife of William Dennis:

Mary (Molly) L. Ford

Born October, 1856 Died Feb. 14, 1885

Married Aug. 20, 1875

Parents: Nathan & Carrie (Lawrence) Ford

Children of William & Mary (Ford) Dennis:

Myrtle Ellen Dennis

Born: Nov. 29, 1878

Died: June 19, 1959

Geneva Alveta Dennis

Born: April 26, 1881

Died: Dec. 28, 1903

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Myron E. Dennis

Born: Aug. 25, 1882

Died: April 22, 1883

William Dennis was married in February, 1889, to Miss Olive Downey. She was born February 14, 1869, in Platte County, Missouri and died May 25, 1955. William Dennis: Born June 9, 1854, in Crawford County, Illinois. Came to Kansas in 1856. (Seneca was staked out in 1857.) Batson Dennis homesteaded land adjoining Seneca on the South. John Dennis (Will's father) took up a homestead one mile south of Kelly. William died in 1931.

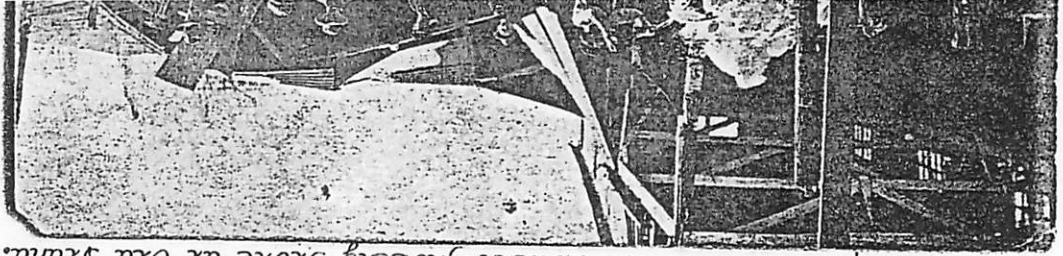
Note that Grandpa Dennis lived on his farm in Kelly for awhile after
Molly Dennis died - so that farm at Kelly must be where Mom was born and
lived while her mother was alive. She was seven years old when her mother
died. Don't know who took care of her and Geneva until he married Olive,
which was four years later. In 1889 when they were married in the year he
was elected sheriff, and they then lived in the jail there at Seneca. 9

remember Mom telling about living there.

Dear Dennis:

December 15, 1973

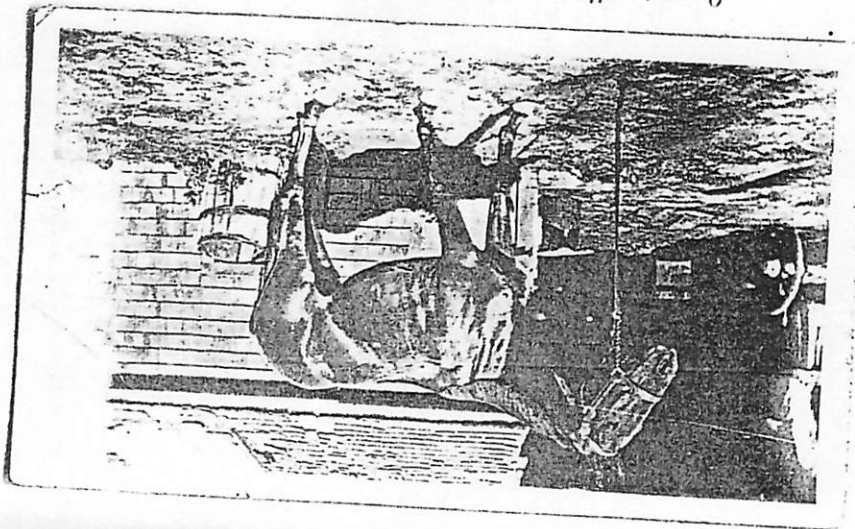
Topeka, Kansas

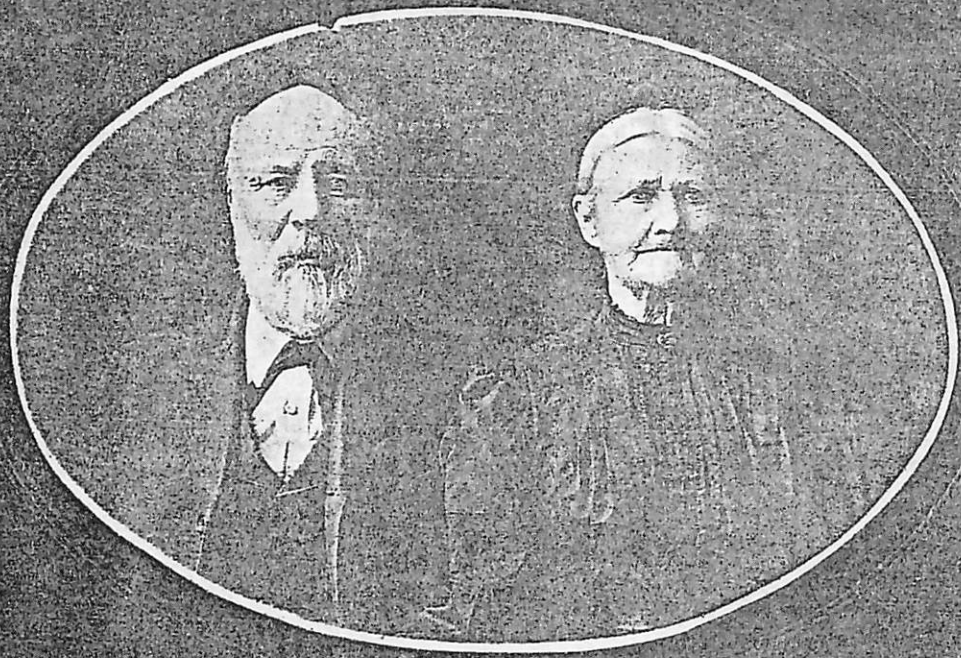


Back of Photo reads: Modern Grocery Store at Old Stand.



Denria Homestead south of Seneca





Hopkins - Mother & father of Mrs. Henry (Anna) Berridge of Goff, Kansas
Early settlers

Goff, Kansas

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Berridge (Anne Hopkins) and their six children:

Jennie

Sarah

Samuel

Grace

Margaret

Edna

Samuel Berridge & wife (Myrtle Ellen Dennis) and their two oldest

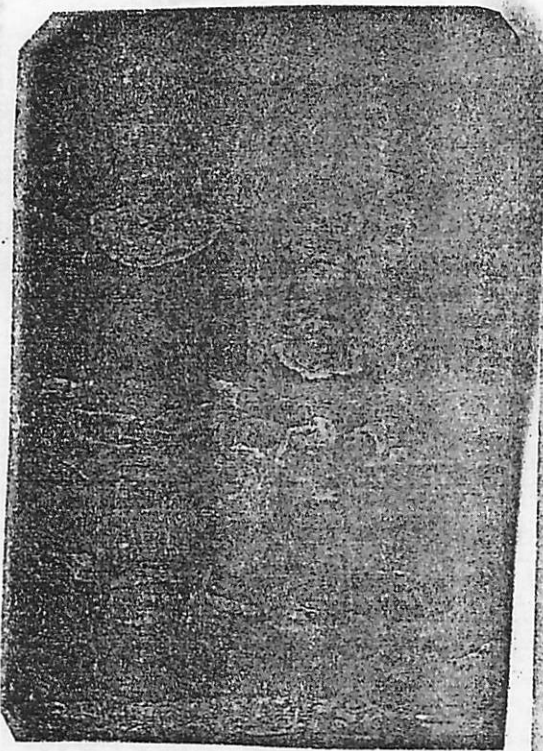
William & Olive Dennis





BATSON
Dennis?

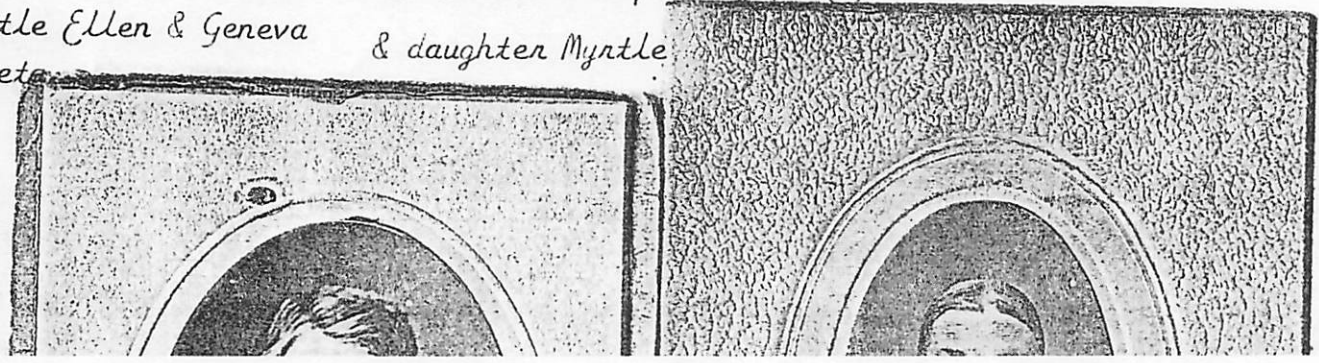
Settled 1856



William's Daughters:
Myrtle Ellen & Geneva
Alveta

Wm. Dennis - wife Mary (Ford)
& daughter Myrtle

John & Nancy Dennis



THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

DENNIS

COMPILED BY

THE MEDIA RESEARCH BUREAU

Washington, D.C.

THE NAME AND FAMILY OF DENNIS

The name of DENNIS is thought to have been derived from the French baptismal name of Denis or Dionise. It is found in ancient English records in the various spellings of Dionise, Dionis, Dionys, Denyse, Denyss, Denys, Denneyse, Dennys, Dennise, Denneys, Denise, Deniss, Denis, and Dennis, of which the last is the form most generally accepted in America today, although the next to the last form is also frequently used.

Among the earliest records of the name in England are those of Richard filius Dionise of County Norfolk in 1273, Richard Dionys of Yorkshire about 1307, and Simon Denyse of Norwich at a slightly later date.

In the latter part of the fourteenth century one Walter Dennys resided in Devenshire. He was the father of Sir John, who married Joane Dabernon and had issue by her of Walter, who married Maude Bockerell and was the father of John, who had issue by his wife Alice Christentow of Walter, who married Isodd Darneford and had a son named Thomas. This Thomas had issue by his first wife Elizabeth Hatche of Thomas, Phillip, Michael, Richard (father of a son named Gilbert), and several daughters. By his second wife Alice Bamfælde he had further issue of a son named Gilbert, who left only female issue.

Thomas Dennis, eldest son of Thomas and Elizabeth, married Jennor Lovday and had issue by her of Sir Thomas and Henry, of whom the first had issue

Henry, second son of Thomas and Jenno, married Alice Speeke and became the father by her of Henry, Phillip, and Thomas Dennis, of whom the last resided in County Cornwall and married Margaret Tremayne, by whom he was the father of Henry, Edmond, Thomas, Phillip, Richard, Oliver, and two daughters. Of these the third son, Thomas, was the father in the early seventeenth century by his first wife, Grace Polwheele, of Thomas, Grace, and Dorithie, and by his second wife, Grace Leigh, of Mary, Elizabeth, and Edmond.

Another early branch of the Dennis family descended from one William Dennis, who was living in Gloucestershire in the early fifteenth century. He married Margaret Corbett and had issue by her of Sir Gilbert, who was the father by his wife Margaret Russell of, among others, a son named Morrys. The latter had issue by his first wife Katherine Stradling of Sir Walter and John, of whom the first was the father by his wife Agnes Davers of Sir William, Richard, John, and several daughters. Of these the son Sir William was the father by his wife Lady Anne Berkeley of, among others, Sir Walter, who married Margaret Weston and was the father of, among others, Thomas (father of Thomas, father in the early seventeenth century of William, Walter, Thomas, Morris, and four daughters) and Richard (father of, among others, Walter, Morris, William, and Gilbert).

John, youngest son of Sir Walter and his wife Agnes Davers, married the Widow Fortune (nee Norton) Kemvsh and became the father of Hugh, father of

While it is not definitely known from which of the several lines of the family in England the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, it is generally believed that most, if not all, of the Dennises were of common ancestry at a remote period.

Probably the first bearer of the name in America was Thomas Dennis of Boston, Mass., in 1630. Thomas later removed to Woodbridge, N.J., and ~~it~~ is believed to have been the father of Samuel of New Jersey and Thomas of Boston.

One Robert Dennis emigrated from London, England, to Yarmouth, whence he soon removed to Portsmouth, R.I.; He is believed by some family historians to have been the father of a son named Robert, who made his home at Portsmouth and Newport, R.I., before 1656; but others hold that this second Robert was himself an original emigrant. In any case, he was the father by his wife Sarah Howland, whom he married in 1672, of Mary, Robert, Sarah, John, and Joseph.

In 1636 Edward Dennis made his home at Boston, Mass. By his wife Sarah he became the father of Sarah, Mary, Martha, John, and Joseph.

James Dennis, who was living in Boston, Mass., prior to the year 1653, was the father by his wife Mary of John (died in infancy), another John, and possibly of several other children.

One Thomas Dennis settled at Ipswich, Mass. before 1668 in which year he

*Daughter of
Mary & Sarah Howland*

The brothers Robert, John, and Samuel Dennis, who were living at Woodbridge, N.J., before 1674, were possibly descended from the before-mentioned Thomas of that place, but this is not certain. Of these, Robert was the father of Jonathan, Joseph, and Elizabeth.

About 1580 George Dennis removed from Long Island, N.Y., to New London, Conn. In the following year he married the Widow Elizabeth Raymond, by whom he had an only son named Ebenezer.

Others of the name who emigrated to America at early dates but left few records of themselves and their families were Humphrey of Charles River County, Va., in 1639; William of Scituate, Mass., in 1650; Christopher of Virginia, in 1651; Lawrence of Maine, in 1665; and Thomas of Rowley, Mass., about 1691.

The descendants of these and of later branches of the family in America have scattered to every section of the United States and have contributed as much to the rise and expansion of the country as their ancestors did to its founding on this continent..The record of the family in America is that of a conservative, industrious race, of high integrity and of intellectual ability which has been demonstrated particularly in the fields of science and law.

Among these of the name who fought as officers in the War of the Revolution were Ensign Ezekiel Dennis, of New Jersey; Lieutenant Daniel Dennis, of Pennsylvania; and Captain John Dennis, of New Jersey.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America in more recent times are the following:

Charles Henry Dennis (b. 1860), of Illinois, editor.

John Benjamin Dennis (b. 1874), of Maryland, naval officer.

Joseph Charles Dennis (b. 1877), of Massachusetts, lawyer.

Louis Munroe Dennis (b. 1863), of Illinois, chemist.

Samuel K. Dennis (b. 1874), of Maryland, judge.

William B. Dennis (b. 1865), of Ohio, mining engineer.

William Cullen Dennis (b. 1878), of Indiana, lawyer and college president.

One of the most ancient and most frequently used of the coats of arms of the ancient English family of Dennis is that described as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms. -- "Ermines, three bills or Danish battle-axes gules."

Crest. -- "A tiger's head (sometimes, a griffin's head) erased ermines."

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